

REMARKS

Claims 28-53 are pending. By this amendment, Claims 1-27 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 28-53 are added. Because new independent Claim 28 corresponds to original Claims 1 and 2; new independent Claim 29 corresponds to original Claims 1 and 3; new independent Claim 40 corresponds to original Claims 1 and 14; new independent Claim 45 corresponds to original Claims 1 and 19; and new dependent Claims 30-39, 41-44, and 46-53 correspond to original dependent Claims 2-27, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is presented herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant respectfully acknowledges and appreciates the indication by the Examiner that Claims 2-27, although objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this regard, Applicant has rewritten dependent Claims 2, 3, 14 and 19 as new independent Claims 28, 29, 40 and 45, respectively, thereby placing Claims 28-29, 40 and 44 in condition for allowance. Moreover, new dependent Claims 30-39, 41-44, and 46-53, which correspond to original but now canceled dependent Claims 2-27, depend from the new and allowable independent claims. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,459,980 to Kenney et al. As Claim 1 has been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejection, allowance of Claim 28-53, and the prompt issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 023349.00322.**

Respectfully submitted,
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